ways in Assam during the last three years is as under:—

1995-96	Rs. 1650.00 lakhs
1996-97	Rs. 1212.00 lakhs
1997-98	Rs. 1821.00 lakhs

(b) and (c) The policy of private sector participation is in place. However, no such proposal has been received from the Government of Assam.

Cargo Handled by Major Ports

4587. DR. B.B. DUTTA: Will the Minister of SURFACE TRANSPORT be pleased to state:

(a) the volume of cargo handled by major ports in the country during 1997-98, month-wise and port-wise;

(b) whether Government have any plan to modernise the major ports to enhance their cargo handling capacity; and

(c) if so, the details thereof alongwith funds earmarked for this during 1998-99, port-wise?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SURFACE TRANSPORT (DR. DEBENDRA PRADHAN): (a) A statement showing the volume of cargo handled by Major Ports in the country during 1997-98, month-wise and port-wise is at Annexure *[See* Appendix 184 Anneuxre No.]

(b) Yes, Sir.

(c) During 1998-99, an outlay of Rs. 726 crores hjfe been earmarked for augmenting the Port capacity which will include creation of new facilities and also modernisation of port infrastruture. The Port-wise details of fund earmarked for modernisation of Major Ports is as under:—

(Rs. in Crores)

Ports	Outlay
Calcutta	30.00
Mumbai J.L.	110.00
Nehru	70.50
Chennai	170.00
Cochin	10.00
Vizag	50.00
Kandla	65.00
Mormugao	15.00
Paradip	120.00
New Mangalore	30.00
Tuticorin	55.00
TOTAL	726.00

Inadequate Port Facilities to Mother Ships

4588. SHRI VAYALAR RAVI: Will the Minister of SURFACE TRANSPORT be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government is aware of the fact that port facilities are not enough for the Mother ships to berth in the ports of the Southern part of the Country;

(b) whether Government are aware of study report on the development of Cochin Port for the Mother ships to berth; and

(c) if so, the action taken on the request of Cochin Port for such development?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SURFACE TRANSPOkT (DR. DEBENDRA PRADHAN): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) Yes, Sir.

(c) Container Transhipment Terminal at ^'allarpadam—Cochin is proposed to be developed on Build, Operate and Transfer basis and 'Expressions of Interest' for the same have been received by Cochin Port Trust from private parties.

राष्ट्रीय राजमार्गों/पुलों के लिए विश्व बैंक/एशियाई विकास बैंक से ऋण

4589. **श्री दिलीप सिंह जूदेव**: क्या जल-भूतल पिवहन मंत्री यह बताने की कृपा करेंगे कि:

(क) गत तीन वर्षों के दौरान नए राष्ट्रीय राजमार्गों/पुलों के निर्माण और सुधार मरम्मत हेतु विश्व बैंक/एशियाई विकास बैंक और अन्य विचीष संस्थाओं से

गुजरात को आबंटित ऋण और अग्रिम धनराशि का ब्यौरा क्या है

(ख) क्या संबंधित परियोजनाओं पर ऋण की पूरी राशि खर्च की गई है; और

(ग) इन ऋणों और अग्रिम धनराशि को अन्यत्र खर्च किए जाने संबंधी ब्यौरा क्या है और इसके क्या कारण हैं?

जल-भूतल परिवहन मंत्रालय में राज्य मंत्री (डा. देवेन्द्र प्रधान): (क) गत तीन वर्षों में नए राष्ट्रीय राजमार्गों/पुलों के निर्माण और सुधार/मरम्मत के लिए विश्व बैंक/एशियाई विकास बैंक अथवा किसी अन्य वित्तीय संस्थानों से गुजरात राज्य को कोई ऋण अथवा अग्रिम राशि नहीं दी है।

(ख) और (ग) प्रश्न नहीं उठता।

इंटौर में राष्ट्रीय राजमार्ग संख्या-3 पर बायपास के निर्माण हेतु धनराशि स्वीकृत किया जाना

4590. **श्री राधाकिशन मानलवीय**: क्या जल-भूतल परिवहन मंत्री यह बताने की कृपा करेंगे कि:

(क) इंदौर में राष्ट्रीय राजमार्ग संख्या-3 पर बायपास सड़क के निर्माण हेतु कितनी धनराशि संखीकृत की गई है; और

(ख) इंदौर में बायपास सड़क का कार्य कब तक पूरा हो जाएगा?

जल-भूतत्म परिवहन मंत्रालय में राज्य मंत्री (डा. देवेन्द्र प्रधान): (क) 102.97 करोड़ रु. की अनुमानित लागत से रा.रा.-3 इंदौर-देवास खंड में 573.00 से 590.00 कि.मी. तक चार लेन बनाने तथा इंदौर नगर के आस-पास बाइपास के निर्माण कार्य को संस्वीकृति दी जा चुकी है (संभवत: संशोधित लागत 219.28 लाख रु. होगी)।

(ख) इंदौर-देवास खंड को चार लेन का बनाने और इंदौर नगर के आस-पास बाइपास बनाने का कार्य मार्च, 2001 तक पूरा करने का लक्ष्य है।

Development of Tuticorin Port

4591. SHRI P. SOUNDARARAJAN: Will the Minister of SURFACE TRANSPORT be pleased be state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Tuticorin port was the first port in India to get TSO-9002 certificate;

(b) if so, the significance of this certificate;

(c) whether the works of deepending the ocean bed to 10.70 meter and dredging of Tuticorin port have been completed;

(d) if not, the reasons therefor; and

(e) the details of other development works going on at the Tuticorin port?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SURFACE TRANSPORT (DR. DEBENDRA PRADHAN): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The certificate signifies the high quality of services rendered by the Port Trust.

(c) and (d) No Sir. Approval to the proposal of deepending the ocean bed has been issued by the Central Government on 21st July, 1998, according to which the work is likely to be completed by May, 2000.

(e) The following main development works are going on in Tuticorin Port at present;—

(i) Construction of Cargo Berth No. 8 at an estimated cost of Rs. 45 crores.

(ii) Development of 7th Berth as Container Berth on BOT basis including private investment of the order of Rs. 90 crores.

12.00 NOON

RE. ECONOMIC SITUATION PREVAILING IN THE COUNTRY

THE LEADER OF THE OPPOSITION (DR. MANMOHAN SINGH): Mr. Chairman, Sir, I wish to draw your kind attention to a grave economic situation prevailing in our country which is giving rise to vast discontent all over the country. The prices of essential commodities are showing an abnormally fast increase. When this Government come into office, the wholesale Price Index was showing an inflation rate of less than five per cent. In the last three months the rate of price